

In other words, what they are saying is it won't affect the premiums because it is a drop in the bucket. We are talking about 60 or 70 million people, and we are talking about 13,000 to 40,000 people coming into Part B and Part D. By the way, again, these people paid their HI taxes all throughout their careers.

CBO then continued, relative to part D—this is the drug benefit:

H.R. 3076 would require PSHB—

That is the Postal Health Benefit Plan—

to deliver prescription drug benefits using an Employer Group Waiver Plan under Medicare Part D. Part D premiums are based on the national average monthly bid amount, as calculated by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services using information from applicable plan bids. Because Employer Group Waiver Plans are excluded from that calculation, CBO estimates that the legislation's requirements would not affect Part D premiums.

So let me, again, put it clearly. The bill does not impact the solvency of the hospital trust fund—the Part A trust fund—which is the trust fund we all talk about here—period. And the bill does not increase Medicare Part B and Part D premiums.

By the way, because of this and because this saves the post office, this legislation passed the House with strong bipartisan support. Just a couple of weeks ago, it passed by a vote of 342 to 92. Not much gets passed in the House with those kinds of big bipartisan numbers these days, but saving the post office is pretty popular, particularly when it is done the way this is done.

This was worked out between Members on both sides of the aisle and between both sides of the Capitol. We did it carefully. We did it in a way that, yes, will save the post office, along with the other reforms internally we talked about, but in a way that is actually a money-saver for the taxpayer.

It is also pretty popular with constituents. It is popular with postal workers because they want to have a post office that continues to survive. It is supported by the Citizens Against Government Waste, which wrote a letter acknowledging the importance of this bill for ensuring the solvency of the post office.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to have that letter printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

COUNCIL FOR CITIZENS
AGAINST GOVERNMENT WASTE,
February 7, 2022.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: You will soon be voting on H.R. 3076, the Postal Service Reform Act of 2021. On behalf of the more than one million members and supporters of the Council for Citizens Against Government Waste (CCAGW), I urge you to support this legislation.

The United States Postal Service (USPS) has been the subject of a significant amount

of justifiable criticism for many years. The agency has been on the Government Accountability Office's High-Risk List since 2009 due to its unsustainable business model and financial condition. There have been 15 consecutive years of net losses since 2007, totaling \$91.2 billion.

H.R. 3076 does not address all of the agency's problems, including closing excess facilities, high labor costs, and greater work sharing. But Section 202 of the bill codifies an integrated delivery network of packages and mail together six days a week. This provision is supported by the USPS, the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC), mailers, shippers, and pro-taxpayer organizations. Requiring the USPS to create separate delivery systems for packages and mail would increase costs, slow down delivery, and raise prices for customers.

According to the PRC, separate networks would cost more than \$15 billion annually for a new fleet of vehicles and tens of thousands of new employees. That would make it highly unlikely that the USPS would ever be profitable, and very likely that taxpayers would be paying for a significant bailout, along with a large annual subsidy.

H.R. 3076 also prevents the USPS from getting into financial services and other non-postal commercial businesses. There is ample evidence that such activities are doomed to fail. In the fall of 2021, USPS began providing Visa cards of up to \$500 to customers who used business checks for the transactions. They sold six cards between September 13, 2021 and January 12, 2022, bringing in \$37.50 in fees, which is equal to the pay for about two hours of work for one USPS clerk. As the USPS said in 2014 in response to the suggestion by the USPS inspector general that the agency should provide financial services, its "core function is delivery, not banking."

The bill also increases financial transparency and strengthens inspector general oversight.

While H.R. 3076 does not solve all the issues currently facing the USPS, the legislation sets the agency on the path to a more sustainable future. For these reasons, I urge you to support H.R. 3076. Any votes related to H.R. 3076 may be among those considered for CCAGW's 2022 Congressional Ratings.

Sincerely,

TOM SCHATZ,
President.

Mr. PORTMAN. So I encourage my colleagues to join us in support of this legislation. Let's put the Postal Service in a position to succeed, and let's provide those essential services to the small businesses, veterans, the elderly, rural constituents, who rely on it so much—the prescription drugs we talked about, the Social Security checks, the rent checks, the utility checks, and the ballots.

I appreciate working with my colleague Senator GARY PETERS on this, over time, to try to find a consensus, to try to find a way forward that was bipartisan, bicameral, where we could actually do something after years and years of talking about what bad shape the post office is in financially, to do something to right the ship, to ensure it will be there for the future.

Let's pass this bill, and let's do ensure that the post office is healthy for all the folks we represent going forward.

I yield the floor.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 547.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Maria L. Pagan, of Puerto Rico, to be a Deputy United States Trade Representative (Geneva Office), with the rank of Ambassador.

CLOTURE MOTION

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 547, Maria L. Pagan, of Puerto Rico, to be a Deputy United States Trade Representative (Geneva Office), with the rank of Ambassador.

Charles E. Schumer, Alex Padilla, Christopher Murphy, Edward J. Markey, Gary C. Peters, Brian Schatz, Jack Reed, Tammy Duckworth, John W. Hickenlooper, Sheldon Whitehouse, Tim Kaine, Richard Blumenthal, Christopher A. Coons, Margaret Wood Hassan, Patrick J. Leahy, Debbie Stabenow.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 719.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Ed Gonzalez, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security.